

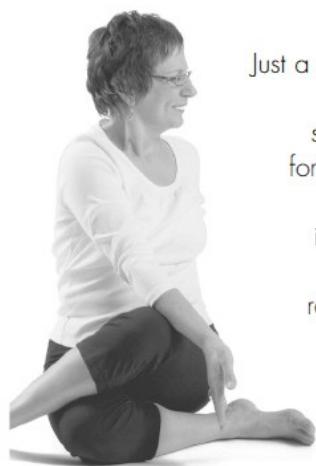


Oakwood Neighborhood Association  
3320 Laird Ave.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

**NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
KALAMAZOO, MI  
PERMIT NO. 189**

### **"Doin' the twist" yoga-style**

*Feel Better • Live Lighter • Play Easier*



Just a short walk from your home is a wonderful yoga and massage studio that has been in business for 7 years. We have established and skilled therapists and instructors who offer a multitude of services and classes at reasonable cost. There is bound to be a class or therapy that will help support or begin your healthy lifestyle.

Parkview Hills Shoppes  
3331 Greenleaf Blvd.  
Next to 5/3 Bank  
**269-744-6665**



Yoga and Bodywork

[www.awakeandaware.net](http://www.awakeandaware.net)

### **Help Wanted**

Are you interested in helping out the neighborhood?  
We are seeking a volunteer with fund raising experience.  
Please contact Executive Director Cheryl Lord at the ONA office, 269-342-0129.

### **August Events**

- 16 - Board of Directors/Neighborhood Watch 6:30 PM
- 17 - Senior Craft Class 1:00 PM
- 25 - Trash & brush Pickup Oakland Eastward

### **September Events**

- 2 - Trash & brush pickup Madison eastward
- 9 - Trash & brush pickup Madison westward
- 10 - Volunteer Work Day 8:45 A.M.
- 13 - Friends of Woods Lake Meeting
- 20 - Board of Directors/Neighborhood Watch 6:30 PM
- 22 - Trash & brush Pickup Oakland Eastward

Recycling every Friday west of Oakland  
East of Oakland recycling is on Thursday  
Computer help every Friday from 1-3 PM by appointment  
Senior Drop In: 1-3 PM Wednesdays  
Free Bread: 2-5 PM on Wednesdays

**From the Desk of the President** Michael Markel

Boy does the summer sure fly by! I can't believe it is already August. This month brings many new changes to the Oakwood area. We have a new display sign at the Oakwood Memorial Beach. This sign will allow us to display educational materials and rules of the beach.

We are also hard at work with our Recover MI grant. The grant will allow us to buy banners for the corner of Parkview and Oakland to welcome people to the Oakwood Neighborhood, as well as some new software, a color laser printer, new brochures, and more consulting time with our marketing and fund development consultants.

Make sure you get outside and enjoy many of the neighborhood's green spaces, including the Oakwood Memorial Beach, the Springmont Tot Lot, and the Oakwood Community Garden. These are YOUR spaces, so take advantage of them before the summer flies by!



Current and former neighborhood residents gathered for the annual Oakwood Reunion. Friends came from next door and as far away as Florida and Arizona for a record-breaking attendance!

**Join us for one or all of our  
community-wide  
Days of Service! Next up is:**



**When:** Saturday, September 10, 2011 (Shifts TBD; check-in 8:45 AM)

**Where:** Oakwood Neighborhood

**What:** We will repair the steps leading down to our community beach, where we will also combine our efforts to remove invasive plant species and install a rain garden.

**Why:** We can accomplish so much more together! With a variety of other agency partners, the Volunteer Center seeks to improve the community and engage more citizens in volunteering: rookies, veterans, adults, youth, and all in between. We invite you to sign-up, show up and make a difference with us!

This Day of Service combines the observance of the 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance with the efforts of the Kalamazoo Neighborhood Safety Initiative to engage volunteers of all ages in positive change in our neighborhoods and organizations. We are in the planning stages to make the upcoming Day of Service the best one yet for our community. Mark your calendar and plan to join us! Further details and online registration will be available soon at [www.volunteerkalamazoo.org](http://www.volunteerkalamazoo.org).



People and pets gathered at the Oakwood Summer Hop, sponsored by area businesses.

## From the Desk of the Director...By Cheryl Lord

1. Oakwood's After School Tutoring Program will start its registration soon. It is a first come first serve program run by Parks and Recreation with funding in part from the Harold and Grace Upjohn Foundation. The Program is for youth 5-13 years of age. Please call 337-8191 for information and registration.
2. Our senior drop in group on Wednesdays at 1 P.M. would like more seniors to attend. Card players are welcome as well as those who would like to sit and chat, and have coffee.
3. Visit our web site at [www.oakwoodneighborhood.org](http://www.oakwoodneighborhood.org) to see a list of our many programs and some of our accomplishments this past year.

### Wish List:

1. Food donations for our food pantry, especially canned fruits and meats, canned pastas, dish and clothes detergents, macaroni & cheese, canned tuna, and helpers.
2. Paper towels.

### Thank You!

- The Gospel Mission for free bread.
- Tom Banner for keeping Oakwood Memorial Park mowed and looking good.
- Mike Finn for picking up bread donations and mowing the tot lot.
- Dan Housler for being our master chef and donating hamburgers, hot dogs, pizzas and ice tea for our 28th annual reunion.
- Brian Caplan and Michael Markel for the use of their grills for our reunion.
- All the residents of Oakwood that supported the Oakwood Summer Hop.
- Janet Loucks, Sharon Jones, Hearth and Grove Fellowship, Debbie Norton, Michael Markel, Martha Austin, Mike Finn, Nita and Dhara Patel, Harold and Betty Knowles for food for our food bank and youth programs.
- Michael Markel for food pantry dog food.
- Ruth Olmsted for planting flowers, weeding, and keeping our gardens watered and looking great.
- Our newsletter folders Ruth Olmsted, Connie and Robert Patterson, Dolores DeShong, and Jen Johnson.
- Ron Lawson and Dave Nesius for IT assistance.

\* Please let us know if we have overlooked your name or business so we can give you the acknowledgement that you deserve for your contribution to Oakwood Neighborhood.

### Silent Observer

Kalamazoo County Silent Observer offers a confidential web tip information system available at <http://kalamazoosilentobserver.com>.

You can also call Silent Observer at 343-2100.



### Computer help is available by appointment on Fridays from 1-3 PM at the center.

Give us a call at 342-0129 to schedule a time.

### E-Newsletter

Interested in receiving the Oakwood Times newsletter electronically? To sign up, please send your email address to [michael@oakwoodneighborhood.org](mailto:michael@oakwoodneighborhood.org).

## Building Our Neighborhood by Bess Fitzgerald

Whenever she begins, she says: "I never heard of anything like this!"

It usually continues: "We never had nobody give us anything. Not that we would have asked. We don't have much, but we get by."

Claudette and her husband, Jerry, live in a neat little house on a dead-end block of Benton in Oakwood. On our first day of door-knocking for the Building Blocks program she welcomed me into her breeze-way to talk so that we would not bother her husband in the living room.

"Jerry has lived in this house practically all his life. We bought it off his parents when we were married. Now our two kids are grown and gone. We've got nothing but Social Security and my health has gone bad. This yard used to look so good! Jerry was always out doing the lawn and the flowers. Now he doesn't ever go out. What with diabetes and him so heavy, he just stays inside."

I invited them both to come to the informational meeting and explained the grant for home fix-up projects several times. Claudette worried about being able to contribute to the group work projects. "I can't do no digging, dear. I can't swing no hammer."

I assured her that help could be providing a meeting space, making phone calls, or sharing food with the neighbors. "Be sure to include the new kids next door," she interjected, "and the new ones on the corner in the brown house, and the man one street over with the gutter down, and did you talk to Joy already? I have good days and bad days, but I hope I can make it to the meeting. I would love to have some flowers and wood chips."

She did make it to the meeting. She chose flowers and mulch, perennials and a small section of fence to complete the border of her yard. "Just that one panel would keep my son's dog in when we watch it for him. Now I have to drive all over the neighborhood calling when that dog gets away."

On the day of the first workday, I came early fearful that the Lowe's delivery would be delayed. All the supplies were in neat stacks beside each house and Jerry was out planting flowers.

"Jerry, wait and save some to do with the neighbors!"

"I just want to get out here and get started," Jerry replied. "I can get some in bit by bit."

When the whole gang arrived, the weeding, planting, mulching and new fence panel only took 70 minutes to complete. Jerry worked lying on the ground and later directed from a kitchen chair placed in the driveway. Claudette came over to whisper in my ear, teary-eyed. "He is out! My Jerry hasn't been out in years. And, this yard looks great!"

Claudette became our safety lady for all projects. (NO open-toed shoes on the job-site, my dear!) She was the hydration specialist as well, passing out water bottles and lemonade. She drove for bagels or Jerry drove if she was having a bad-health day.

New names are hard to learn when we are older, but Claudette persisted until she knew the names of everyone-even the kids. She got everybody to sign a card for baby Ella, born at home on Benton during the project. Her Jerry is the keeper of the neighborhood history and shared what he knew at the final celebration picnic.

"Our old neighbors died or moved out. It isn't easy these days to get to know people. Now old know new and young know old. We have got a real old fashioned neighborhood again," said Jerry.

"I never heard of anything like this Building Blocks", Claudette still says, "but I love it and now I know all my neighbors!"

## Neighborhood Update by Pat Henry

Summer has been full for our Oakwood neighborhood — the Marathon, (May) Tea time, Eating out time, Reunion, the “Summer Hop” — We need to do it over again!

Oakwood’s own Ruth Borst ran in the “big” Run and came in #15 for her age group! There were a lot of cowbells ringing and excitement at our cheer and refreshment station as the marathoners ran through our neighborhood. To be able to run up and down those hills all through the town — even to finish — has to be an accomplishment that so few of us can do!!!

The senior tea was another success despite the bad weather. 3 of our former residents joined came — one from Battle Creek — in spite of it.

Many of us gathered for the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Oakwood Neighborhood reunion the last Sunday in June. Fran, Gail, and Doreen were brought by their caregivers to attend. Soon after, the Senior trip to Riverside Restaurant was very delicious and the hummingbirds were numerous.

Congratulations to Clyde and Margery Pappas on their 62<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary! Their best man was Oakwood’s astronaut, Jim McDivitt.

Wasn’t the area business Summer Hop wonderful? It was well attended and the treats were awesome!!!

July appeared to be a quiet time for get-togethers. Thankfully the storm stayed South of us!

When on Facebook, isn’t it fun to spot one from your old neighborhood? Jim Melbones (his mother was the life guard many years at the Oakwood beach) is celebrating 52 years in AZ.

Recent Oakwood deceased include Glenn Townsend, Pat Mitchell Oitker, Merrill See, Deborah Kozel, Maxine Hicks Kribbs, and Pat Corradina Hathaway. You are missed.

Neighborhood contributions are welcomed, in kind and in memory. Dare I say it, but wouldn’t it be nice to read in memorials, “contributions to the ONA? It will be in ours!!!!

## Waste Reduction: Staying Cool by Michael Markel

Take advantage of the cooler days of summer by turning off the A/C and opening a window or two. This will allow fresh air into your home and will reduce your electric bill. If you have a ceiling fan, run that to circulate the air in your house. Ceiling fans use as little as 1/3 the energy that A/C does.

**Newsletter deadline for ads and submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Suggested donation for ads:** quarter page \$20, third page \$35, full page ad \$65. Six month special for ¼ page is \$100. Electronic submissions in pdf or doc format are appreciated!

### ONA People

Michael Markel President  
Don Verhage, Vice President

Diane Stanke, Treasurer  
Bree Bennett, Secretary

At Large Members:

Jackie Luedtke

Jim Jeakle

Janet Loucks

Kathleen Olmsted

Ellen Tober

Tom Cleveland

Liz Stuart

Cheryl Lord, Exec. Director

ONA Office: 269-342-0129

[www.oakwoodneighborhood.org](http://www.oakwoodneighborhood.org)  
[center@oakwoodneighborhood.org](mailto:center@oakwoodneighborhood.org)

This newsletter is published, in part, with funds provided by the City of Kalamazoo. The views and opinions expressed herein may not necessarily represent those of the City of Kalamazoo. This activity is brought to you in partnership with the Oakwood Neighborhood Association and the City of Kalamazoo.

## FOOD PANTRY



Oakwood Bible Church located at  
4100 Oakland Dr Kalamazoo, MI 49008

is opening a short-term food resource  
available to Oakwood Neighborhood  
residents

Appointments are necessary  
and are scheduled the  
3rd week of each month .

**CONTACT: BILL KIEWIET**  
**at Oakwood Bible Church**  
**phone: 269) 349-2835**

HOURS OF OPERATION:

**4th week of each Month**

WEDNESDAYS: 9:00AM-11:00AM

THURSDAYS: 1:00-3:00PM

APPOINTMENTS ARE NECESSARY

(Availability is limited to first come first served basis)

## Community of Christ

2523 Amherst Ave.

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**AUGUST 10-12, 6-8PM**

Ages 3-13

*Vacation Bible School*

**HOMETOWN NAZARETH**

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**AUGUST 13**

**CHILD SAFETY DAY**

*Hands on Activities, Fire Safety Mobile (Smoke house), EMS Ambulance, Oakwood Fire Truck*

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**AUGUST 19**

Outdoor Movie @ Dusk

**Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader**

show by permission through CVLI

Visit us on the web at

**Facebook: Kalamazoo Community of Christ**

**[www.kalamazoocommunityofchrist.com](http://www.kalamazoocommunityofchrist.com)**